

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 05-09-20**

Date Published: September 15, 2005  
For Work Week Commencing: September 19, 2005  
Commission Meeting: September 20, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY      D97.11.219      (Eric)

On September 9, 2005, NWE filed its twelfth semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by NWE in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent NWE is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an over collection of 4.67 percent or \$182,884. A decrease in FTA-GP, FTA-RA(Core), FTA-RA Utility, FTA-RA (Non-Core) rates is necessary based on future payment obligations and projected market load.

The new FTA rates should ensure enough funds are collected to make the next principal and interest payment. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges be approved effective October 1, 2005. Probable motion: Approve the decreases in FTA rates effective October 1, 2005.

2. AT &T N2005.9.131 (Scott)

On September 6, 2005, AT &T filed Tariff Transmittal 2005-12. The purpose of this filing is to grandfather the ACC Business Service Dedicated Access Plan p. AT &T is requesting that this filing go into effect October 7, 2005. Probable Motion: Approve AT & T's tariff transmittal 2005-12 in docket N2005.9.131.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. N2005.8.120, N2005.8.121, N2005.8.122 – Qwest – Act on each petition and request. (9/20/05)
2. D2002.5.50, N2002.1.12 (and NA) – Central Montana Communications (and NA) – To explain implementation (or lack of) of two Central filings of several years ago, to act to closing the dockets and affirming the validity of the rates involved, to suggest that the Chair send a letter to telecom providers who might file pursuant to part 9 a letter setting forth the requirements for such filings and the Commission understanding or the sections and the implementation that will be followed. (9/20/05)
3. N2005.8.118 – PSC – Action on 2005 ETC requests for certification to receive 2006 federal USF's. (9/20/05)
4. D2003.12.170 – Western Montana Local Calling Coalition – Review the EAS application and to receive further direction, if necessary, on how the Commission wishes to proceed. (9/20/05)
5. D2004.7.99, D2004.12.192, D2005.6.106 – NorthWestern Energy Gas and Electric USB – Update, discussion, action on motion to continue and other matters as necessary. (9/20/05)
6. D2003.7.86, D2004.6.96, D2005.6.103 – NorthWesten Energy QF's – Discussion and action on motion to suspend, other matters as necessary. (9/20/05)

7. Staff Travel – Obtain approval for Gary Duncan’s travel to Albuquerque, NM, Oct. 17 – 21 to participate as faculty at the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities “Basics of Regulation” course. (9/20/05)
8. Budget/Personnel – Discuss additional broadbanding in the agency, vacant positions, and other compensation and budget matters related. (9/20/05)
9. **Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 a.m.** – Discuss and get direction as necessary to file comments in CC 96-45. The Federal-State Joint Board issued on August 17, 2005 a Public Notice inviting comments in FCC 05J-1. In a recent September 13<sup>th</sup> Public Notice the FSJB extended the deadline by which initial and reply comments must be filed. The initial comment date is now September 30<sup>th</sup> and the reply comment deadline is now October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Meetings**

**9/22/05 9:30 a.m.** – Grid West Membership – Discussion of the issues surrounding possible Grid West membership by the PSC. The Commission may want to take action to join and may want to consider joining as a voting member or as an ex officio (non-voting) member  
**9/22/05** – ETIC Meeting (Capitol)

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Central Montana Communications, Inc. N2005.9.130 (Kim)

On September 6, 2005 Central Montana Communications, Inc. filed modifications to Section 4: Local Service, Section 7: Service Bundles, Section

11.5: Construction-Service Move of an Existing Subscriber, and Section 12: Outside Premises Extensions. The modifications to Sections 4 and 7 reflect overall decreases to the EAS increment charges to subscribers in the Havre, Great Falls, and Lewistown service areas. The modifications to Sections 11.2 and 12 reflect changes to tariff provisions with respect to lump-sum billing of service that is provided under a construction contract (Section 11.2), and the ownership of outside premise extension cables (Section 12).

2. Qwest Communication Corporation N2005.9.135 (Scott)

On September 9, 2005, Qwest Communication Corporation (QCC) filed tariff transmittal QCC05-07. QCC is requesting to introduce a new rate structure for QWEST TOTAL ADVANTAGE Service for renewal of term agreements and new subscribers only. The rate changes do not impact existing customers of this service. Qwest is requesting an October 10, 2005, effective date.

3. CenturyTel N2005.9.134 (Scott)

On September 2, 2005, CenturyTel requested to modify its liability language in its Emergency Communications Services schedule. The Company is requesting an effective date of October 2, 2005.

4. Qwest N2005.9.132 (Scott)

On September 7, 2005, Qwest filed tariff Transmittal 05-16, Introduction of 811 Service. 811 Service is a three –digit local dialing arrangement used for access to One Call systems as a means for excavators and the general public to notify underground facility operators in advance of their intent to engage in excavation activities in compliance with the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002.

**Protective Orders – Notice Items** The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Any person interested in seeking a copy of a protective order request should contact the Commission at 406-444-6199.

**Protective Orders – Information Items** The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

**D2005.9.133** - NorthWestern Energy - Monthly Gas Tracker for the Period 10/1/05 through 6/30/06

**N2005.9.134** - CenturyTel - Modifying language in the Emergency Communications Services Schedule

**N2005.9.135** - Qwest Communications Corporation - TT-QCC05-07 - Changes the rate application for the QWEST CHOICE Long Distance Basic and the QWEST CHOICE Long Distance Plus Calling Plans for business customers and introduce a new rate structure for Qwest Total Advantage Service for renewal of term agreements and new subscribers only

**D2005.9.136** - Qwest Corporation Company & TransNational Communications International, Inc. - Application for Approval of Adoption of Wireline Interconnection Agreement

**D2005.9.137** - Qwest Corporation and Z.E.H., LLC - Application for Wireline Interconnection Agreement

**D2005.9.138** - Qwest Corporation & Ernest Communications - Application for Approval of Agreement for Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunications Services